

Outside you can easily see the Roman brickwork of the oldest part of the church (25). At the corners you can see shallow pilaster buttresses in distinctively Saxon style (26).

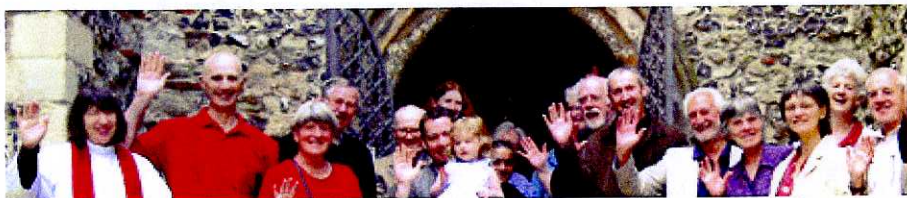
The churchyard contains at least 900 graves, including Mary Tourtel (creator of *Rupert Bear*), Sidney Cooper (Canterbury's most famous artist), and Hilare Countess Nelson (who married Horatio Nelson's brother and, after his death, Jane Austen's nephew). The oldest visible date is 1686 on the headstone of Thomas Emptage. From the top of the churchyard there is an inspiring view of the daughter church of St Martin's: Canterbury Cathedral.



St Martin's has been the home of an unbroken Christian community ever since Bertha prayed here. The message of Jesus Christ brought the Anglo Saxons a new hope of forgiveness for wrongs and victory over death. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he revealed the beginning of a new creation, in which wrongdoing and death would have no place. To those who follow Jesus, God gives his Spirit as a foretaste of what is to come. This same message has brought hope to countless people who have prayed here and still changes lives today.

St Martin's was founded many centuries before the division between the eastern and western church, or between Roman Catholic and protestant. When Augustine found differing customs in various churches he wrote to Rome, asking what he should do. St Gregory replied: *"if you have found anything, in the church of Rome, or of Gaul, or any other church, which may be more pleasing to Almighty God, I wish you to choose carefully, and teach the church of the English, which as yet is new in the faith, whatever you have been able to learn with profit from the various churches"*.

In the spirit of Gregory's reply we recognise and value as our brothers and sisters all who follow Jesus Christ. Our main worship service is on Sundays at 0900. Activities for children are at the 1030 service at St Paul's, which was united with St Martin's in 1681. St Martin's is usually open for visitors Tues, Thurs, Sat 1100-1600 (1500 in winter), Sun 0950-1015.



The Friends of St Martin's was founded in 1966 to express the unity of all Christians and to enable visitors to keep in touch with St Martin's. We pray for Friends every Thursday at 12 noon. For more information, or to become one of the many who have joined the Friends, see the details on the bookstall or at www.martinpaul.org.

If you would like to make a gift, there are slots in the wall above the bookstall and in the tower.



Welcome to St Martin's, the oldest church in continuous use in the English-speaking world, and part of the Canterbury World Heritage site.



St Martin's was already old when Augustine came in AD 597 with 40 companions, including Roman monks and Frankish interpreters, to preach the good news of Jesus Christ to King Ethelbert and the people of Kent. Bede's History, completed in 731, says what happened:

"On the east side of the city there was an old church in honour of St Martin, built during the Roman occupation of Britain, where the queen, who was a Christian, was accustomed to pray. Here they first began to assemble, to sing the psalms, to pray, to celebrate mass, to preach and to baptize, until the king was converted to the faith and gave them greater freedom to preach and to build and restore churches everywhere."

Follow the numbers on the next page, starting at the bottom, for a self-guided tour.

